

# LAFCO of Santa Clara County Launches its 2011 Countywide Water Service Review

February 2011

The Countywide Water Service Review will involve a comprehensive review of water service provision in Santa Clara County. The Service Review Report will provide an overview of all the agencies that provide water services in the County, evaluate the provision of these services, and recommend actions to promote efficient service delivery. The Report will include sphere of influence recommendations for four water districts and two resource conservation districts. In addition to including the required analysis and written statement of service review determinations, the Report will provide a brief analysis of the following water service related topics:

- Key laws affecting water supply analysis and planning
- Methodology for evaluating the availability of adequate water supply required for new development
- Countywide water service issues such as groundwater supplies, recharge and over-drafting, conservation, recycling, treatment, flood control, and storm-water runoff
- Reliability of water supply system in the event of an emergency / natural disaster
- Status of water quality issues in Santa Clara County
- Evaluation of potential opportunities for improved water service and public benefit from consolidation of water service providers
- Coordination with and regulation of private water companies

## Service Review Process / Schedule

As a first step, LAFCO has established a technical advisory committee (TAC) to serve as a liaison with affected agencies, to help select a consultant for the project and to provide technical expertise/advice throughout the process.

TAC Members	Appointed by
Susan Vicklund-Wilson LAFCO Commissioner	LAFCO of Santa Clara County
Brian Loventhal, City Manager City of Monte Sereno	County / Cities Managers' Association
Karl Bjarke, Deputy Director of Public Works - Engineering, City of Morgan Hill	County Municipal Public Works Officers' Association
James Fiedler, Chief Operating Officer, Water Utility, SCVWD	Santa Clara Valley Water District
Alan Kurotori, Director of Water & Sewer Utilities, City of Santa Clara	Santa Clara County Water Retailers Group
Michael Bolzowski, Water Resource Planning Engineer, California Water Service Company	Santa Clara County Water Retailers Group

The consulting team of Baracco and Associates, The Shibatani Group, and Policy Consulting Associates; selected through an RFP process, has been retained by LAFCO to conduct the service review. They will be contacting service providers within the next few days to begin data collection.



Project Timeline	
<b>Jan 2011</b>	Start project, establish TAC, select consultant
<b>Feb - Apr</b>	Data collection and verification of data by agencies
<b>May - Aug</b>	Data analysis, preliminary findings, and preparation of Draft Service Review Report
<b>Sep</b>	Release Draft Report for public review and comment
<b>Oct</b>	LAFCO public hearing on Draft Report (October 5)
<b>Nov</b>	Release Final Report for public review and comment
<b>Dec 2011</b>	LAFCO public hearing on Final Report (December 7)

# LAFCO Service Review Responsibilities

State law mandates that each LAFCO conduct service reviews prior to or in conjunction with the sphere of influence updates for districts and cities which must be conducted once every 5 years. The Service Review must include an analysis and written statement of determination regarding each of the following six categories:

- Growth and population projections for the affected area
- Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies
- Financial ability of agencies to provide services
- Status of and opportunities for, shared facilities
- Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies
- Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy

The Countywide Water Service Review is the second of four service reviews that will be conducted by LAFCO within the next two years. LAFCO recently completed a Countywide Fire Service Review and in the Fall of 2011, LAFCO will begin service reviews of all cities and specials districts (other than those providing fire and water services) within the County.

## Intended Use of the Service Review Report

The Service Review Report will serve as an information resource on water services in Santa Clara County for LAFCO, local agencies and the public. Service providers may use the Report to pursue service delivery changes or to further assess the options identified in the Report for providing more efficient services. LAFCO may use the information in the Report when reviewing future proposals for jurisdictional boundary changes. LAFCO, local agencies or the public may use the Report together with additional analysis where necessary, to pursue changes in governance, changes in jurisdictional boundaries or spheres of influence of cities/districts.

## Opportunities for Input

In addition to direct communication with water service providers, the service review process will include periodic updates to the Santa Clara County Water Retailers Group, other stakeholder groups and to LAFCO. Members of the public, interested groups or affected agencies are encouraged to contact LAFCO staff to provide input, to discuss / request that a water-related issue be addressed in the report or to obtain more information on the project. More information on service reviews and on LAFCO is available on the LAFCO website at [www.santaclara.lafco.ca.gov](http://www.santaclara.lafco.ca.gov).

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## Agencies that will be Studied

### Special Districts

Aldercroft Heights County Water District  
Purissima Hills County Water District  
Pacheco Pass Water District  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
San Martin County Water District  
Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District  
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District

### City Departments

Milpitas Community Service Department  
Mountain View Public Services Department  
Palo Alto Utilities Department  
San Jose Municipal Water System  
Santa Clara Water Department  
Sunnyvale Public Works Department  
Gilroy Community Services Department  
Morgan Hill Public Works Department

### Private Water Companies

San Jose Water Company  
California Water Service Company  
Great Oaks Water Company  
West San Martin Water Works

### Other Regional and Local Agencies

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Stanford University  
Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency  
South Bay Water Recycling  
South County Regional Wastewater Authority  
Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant  
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant



#### COMMISSIONERS

Pete Constant  
Liz Kniss  
Margaret Abe-Koga  
Mike Wasserman  
Susan Vicklund-Wilson

#### ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS

Sam Liccardo  
Al Pinheiro  
George Shirakawa  
Terry Trumbull